

HOORAH! HOORAH! GET YOUR SKATES

Ice Will Hold in River and on Pond.

THE RED BALL IS FLYING

Many Gather at Chevy Chase Lake and on the Eastern Branch. Big Crowds Out.

Street cars of a local railway company bore a small pasteboard sign yesterday—a sign in itself innocent enough, but which, nevertheless, caused high school students to neglect night studying, and in not a few cases to neglect school altogether; caused staid, respectable government clerks to rush home, cut an early dinner with children, immediately leave again, and caused the Chevy Chase line to carry more passengers than they have had since summer.

The sign had not been on the first car half an hour before it was known and discussed all over the city. It bore only five words:

"Skating at Chevy Chase Lake."

Get Out Your Skates.

Washingtonians had been on the look-out for this sign, hung only when the ice is thick enough to make "falling in" an impossibility, and all day yesterday the lake was crowded with children, boarding school girls, and middle-aged men. All had forgotten the cold weather which was causing people in the city to hug their fires. Few of the skaters even wore overcoats, for overcoats hinder skating.

To the experienced skater nothing is more enjoyable than a smooth sheet of ice and a sharp pair of skates. It is like flying, they say.

The novice does not enjoy himself so much. Skates in the shop windows are innocent and harmless. When fastened on an inexperienced pair of feet, however, they suddenly take life, and dart in every way but the right way. A man on skates for the first time cuts figures that he will never again be able to duplicate.

His fancy skating, however, invariably ends in the same way. The beginner has to be helped back to his feet, where he stands, perfectly still for several minutes, undecided whether to take off his skates forevermore, or to strike out again. If he does the latter often enough with a pair of reasonably strong ankles, he usually learns to skate. Then, and not until then, he laughs at other beginners.

Everybody There.

Given a clear day, with good skating, and almost every type of humanity can be found on the various ponds in and about Washington. There is the tough in his rusty skates, which have done service for years. There is the young man, who has attended one of the Northern universities, usually on "hockey skates," which require an extra pair of shoes.

The small boy, often a skillful skater, and the young lady are both there, and in not a few cases men are seen on the ice whose names bear the prefix "Rev." Skating means money to many negroes of the city. The outskirts of the ponds are literally covered with negroes and their "sled chaps." They will put on your skates, sharpen your skates, rent you a pair of skates, or check your coat. Others sell "dog" sandwiches and hot coffee. All make money.

Many of these negroes are skillful skaters, and could, if they wished, put many of their patrons to shame.

"Old Ben" on Skates.

One in particular, "Old Ben," who drives a coal cart in summer but resigns at the beginning of the skating season, is indeed an expert. His fellow-negroes claim that he is the best skater in Washington. Certain it is that he is perfectly at home on skates, and cuts figures on the ice which others dare not even attempt.

Old Ben is almost sixty years old. He has been skating for forty-five years, and still uses the pair of skates on which he learned.

"Dem's an 'odder' skates," he said, holding an enormous foot for inspection. "All de shoe' nough fancy skaters used to use 'em in mah time," he continued. "You see, sah, dose blades, dey's made out o' iron, and de body is wood, good hick'ry wood, dat's supple but strong. Is dey easy to skate on? Well, dey is fo' me. You see, I learned on 'em."

A Rare Exhibition.

Once in a while Ben gives a free exhibition of his skill, but it is on rare occasions. Usually he is seen skating leisurely along, pushing his sled chair in front of him, crying:

"Come, see Ole Ben! Ovahcoats checked! skates shapened! skates fo' hire! Ole Ben!"

Up to last year, locals skated where and when they pleased. Last year the District government took a hand. Skating at the bathing beach, or the "Little Basin" as it is called, was prohibited entirely, and even though the Government fish ponds, near the foot of the Monument grounds, are only four feet in depth, the order has gone forth preventing skating except when the ice is thick enough to exclude all possibility of a ducking.

A comparison of the skating mortality lists for the winter of 1902-03 and 1903-04 shows the wisdom of this plan. During the winter of 1902-03, seven skaters lost their lives through drowning. About fifty fell in. Last winter only eight fell in and no one was drowned.

Skates in Demand.

The skating is also welcomed by the department stores. All day yesterday there was an ever increasing demand for skates. Club skates, hockey skates, racing skates, skates of every shape and description were bought as soon as it was learned that there was really good skating, for no one was willing to lose even one day of the sport.

To some Washingtonians the skating

This Professor's Idea Is Logic by Machinery

University Man Is Perfecting a Contrivance to Answer All Syllogisms—Distinct Scientific Triumph in His Grasp.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 17.—Prof. Charles H. Rieber of the University of California is perfecting a logic machine that will answer syllogistic propositions as fast as proposed.

His machine is an improvement on that of Stanley Jevons, the English logician. It will follow what logicians know as the "circle notation," wherein all premises have separate symbols and the conclusions are produced by a combination of these symbols.

came too early. These were the mothers and fathers who had bought skates, intending them for Christmas presents for their children. Of course, the children heard of the skating, and it was not long before they were home, promising angelic behavior for now and evermore if only they would be given money with which to buy a pair of skates.

If money for new ones was not forthcoming, they had a friend anxious to sell a second-hand pair—anything to get skates.

The mothers were in a quandary, some refused to permit the children to go skating "even if you had skates," offering as an excuse, that the ice could not possibly be thick enough for safe skating so early in the winter. "Skating never is safe before Christmas," they said, and the children stayed at home. Other mothers yielded to the pleading of their children and brought forth the skates which had been sneaked into the house and hidden away in a dark corner of the closet.

Ice at this season of the year is particularly welcomed by the college boys, home for their Christmas vacation. These boys are easily distinguished, rarely wearing coats of any description while on the ice—only a heavy varsity sweater.

The students from Gallaudet are great skaters and are often seen in pairs on the ice. As in most other sports, the mutes are both skillful and speedy on skates and are keen devotees of the sport. Washingtonians as a whole, in fact, are passionately fond of skating, and it is safe to say that until the police decide that the ice is unsafe the ponds will be crowded.

WOMEN URGE WOMAN SUFFRAGE

Mrs. Colby Makes Plea Before Senate Committee—Claims Constitutional Right.

The Senate Committee on Woman Suffrage heard arguments yesterday upon the proposition to grant women the right to vote for members of the House of Representatives. Senator Bacon, chairman of the committee, and Senators Bard and Mitchell were present.

Mrs. Colby, who has appeared recently before the House Committee on the Election of President, Vice President, and Representatives in Congress, in advocacy of the same plan, made the principal address. Mrs. Colby dealt largely with the constitutional aspect of the question.

"The Constitution recognizes women as citizens," said Mrs. Colby, "and the Constitution now declares that no right of citizens to vote shall not be abridged or denied, except for participation in rebellion or other crime. The Congress of the United States has a right to say that women shall be entitled to vote for Representatives."

The speaker quoted authorities in support of her position. She declared the intelligence of the women of the country was unanimous in support of the demand for the suffrage.

Another of the speakers was Mrs. Belva Lockwood, who prefaced her remarks with the statement she was from the District of Columbia, "where a woman is just as good as a man."

"If man is ever given the right to vote in the District, we want women to vote, too," said Mrs. Lockwood.

"Certainly," interposed Mrs. Colby. "We can't afford to lose the only respectable political associates we have."

The arguments made before the committee will be printed, and the documents confided to the members of the suffrage propaganda for distribution.

THE HORSEPOWER UNIT.

How many folk who talk glibly about the "horsepower" of a motor car know what the horsepower unit is? Even those who are aware that this unit represents the force that will raise 33,000 pounds one foot per minute probably do not know that this considerably exceeds what the average horse can do, and that the figures were settled by James Watt about a century ago in a curious fashion. Watt, in his usual careful manner, had calculated what the average horse in his neighborhood could do, and he found that the raising of 2,200 pounds per foot per minute was about the actual horsepower. At the time he was engaged in the manufacture of engines, and had almost a monopoly of the engine building trade. Customers were so hard to find that all kinds of artificial encouragements were considered necessary to induce power users to buy steam engines. As a method of encouragement Watt offered to sell engines reckoned 33,000 foot pounds to a horsepower, or one-half the figure he then gave. And thus what was intended as a temporary expedient to promote business was the means of giving a false unit of a very important measurement to the world.

"77" Cures Colds and GRIP

At Drugists, 25 cents, or mailed. Humphreys' Medicine Co., Cor. W. 11th and John Streets, New York, N. Y.

CURTAIN OF SKIN PROTECTS BRAIN

Has Lived Years With Hole in His Skull.

HAS "LEFT-HANDED VISION"

IOWA CITY, Dec. 17.—A remarkable subject in the person of George Chapman, of Kansas City, has been before the medical clinic of the State University.

Mr. Chapman's skull lacks a piece five inches long by three inches wide, the opening being in the back of the head, and covered by a growth of skin. Through this new skin, which was grafted upon his head, the pulsations of the brain can be plainly seen.

The remarkable condition of this man was due to the accidental discharge of a gun twelve years ago, the bullet entering above the left eye, passing through the brain and out at the back of his head.

Live skin was grafted over the place where the portion of his skull had to be removed and to the surprise of the medical profession he began to recover. The wound eventually healed, the grafted skin being the only thing separating the man's brain from the air.

At the time of the accident five ounces of brain matter had to be removed, the only effect being the loss of power of action on the left side and a peculiar condition of sight known as "left-handed vision."

Three Persons Killed In a Brooklyn Fire

Blaze Thought Due to Bursting of Coal Oil Stove—Ladder Breaks While Woman Is Being Rescued.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—Fire broke out at 6 o'clock this morning in the three-story and basement brownstone dwelling at 194 South Ninth Street, Brooklyn.

Three lives were lost, and six persons were more or less injured.

The dead are: ARDEN REYNOLDS, aged 73; MISS ALICE STIMSON, aged 35; CHARLES S. PAYNTER, aged 2 years.

The injured are Dr. Mortimer J. Burford, Charles M. Smith, A. R. Paynter, Charles Reynolds, Jacob Schlegel, Harry Bronnede, Isaac Smith. The fire started in the basement.

Agged Mr. Reynolds had gone down, as was his custom, to start an oil heater to warm the house. The supposition is that a lace curtain caught fire and the flames spread, soon enveloping the whole house. The damage will reach \$300.

Burned to a Crisp.

The body of Reynolds was found burned to a crisp upon the landing of the stairway leading to the first story. It is supposed that upon seeing the fire spreading he started for the upper floors to alarm the sleeping inmates

but was overcome by the smoke and flame which quickly followed him.

The engines arrived within four minutes after the alarm had been turned in, but they were too late for many of the occupants. The stairs had been entirely cut off by the first rush of flames and there were no fire-escapes. Before the firemen could run up ladders on the front of the house, Charles Reynolds had jumped from a third-story window and received severe internal injuries. Schlegel, who owed him, not only received internal injuries but broke several ribs.

Was Terribly Burned.

On the ladder the firemen took down Bronnede shockingly burned about the hands and neck, and Isaac Smith, whose head, face, and hands had received burns that he cannot survive. Meanwhile firemen had carried a ladder through a back alleyway to the rear of the house and set it up to the windows of the Paynters' rooms on the third floor.

Mr. Paynter passed out his wife and three days' old infant to two firemen who started down the ladder with their burden. When they were half way down the ladder broke square across and all four were thrown fifteen feet to the ground. They landed in a deep snowbank, which probably saved some of them from death. All four were severely bruised.

BOLDEN IS CHARGED WITH TWO BURGLARIES

Negro Railroad Porter Caught in Home of Bristow Adams and Whacked With Old Sword.

Henry Bolden, a negro porter of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, who was caught in the residence of Bristow Adams, 512 Spruce Street, Le Droit Park, was arraigned in the Police Court yesterday to answer a charge of burglary at the Adams home, and a similar charge was preferred by Maj. Isaiah Black, of 618 Third Street northwest, whose residence Bolden is alleged to have robbed before his capture by Mr. Adams. Bolden waived examination, and was held in \$1,500 bail for the grand jury.

Bolden's capture was effected in a most startling manner. While ransacking Mr. Adams' house early Friday morning Bolden came across an old sword, a relic of the Franco-Prussian war. At that moment he was discovered by Mr. Adams, who snatched the weapon from his hands, and struck the intruder several resounding whacks on the head with it.

EDISON BACK TO OLD JOB.

A crowd of fashionable folk gathered in the Orange Club, of Orange, N. J., and received the election returns over a special wire. Thomas A. Edison sat at the key and received the returns, writing them out in his copper-plate hand. He took the returns a long time before relinquishing his place to the regular operator, and seemed not to have lost his old skill with the key.

Open Evenings

THERE is nothing that fits the description of an appropriate and lasting Xmas Gift better than a piece of Furniture. We have lots of handsome pieces, including many odd novelties and exclusive patterns that you will not find elsewhere. Our Charge System makes your shopping a pleasure; you can pay in small amounts from time to time, arranged to suit your convenience, without any extra charge whatever.

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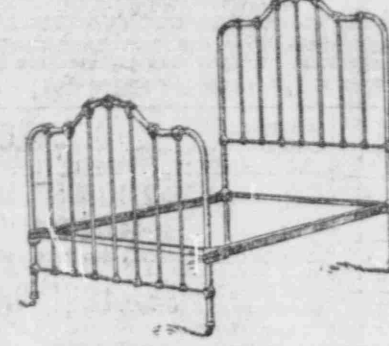
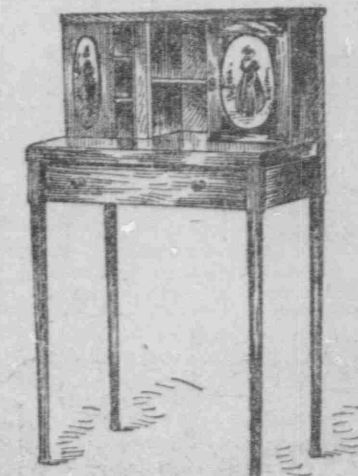


Mission Arm Chair, exactly like cut; very attractive design. Only \$4.48 Arm Rocker to match at same price.

We are quoting exceptional low prices on all Weathered Oak Furniture. Big variety of patterns and styles of all kinds of pieces. These goods are very attractive and serviceable, and make an ideal Xmas Gift.

Special Big Values This Week in Lace Curtains, Portiers, Couch Covers. Big assortment of patterns and styles in all grades.

Weathered Oak Desk, exactly like cut, has Pyro-etched door panels, and folding leaf, very pretty design; only \$9.85



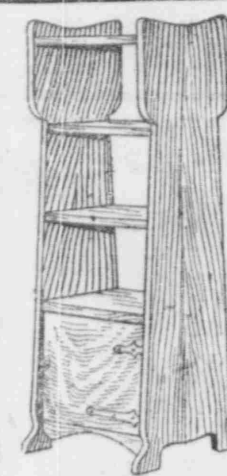
Metal Bed, exactly like cut; has heavy continuous posts, high head and foot; can be had in white, blue, or green. Only \$6.95



Oak Chiffonier, exactly like cut; has French bevel plate mirror and five deep drawers. A big value for \$7.95



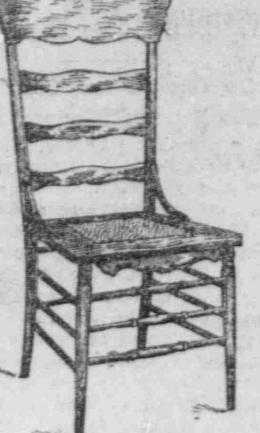
Quartered Oak Parlor Table, exactly like cut; 24x24-inch top, is highly polished and made of select quality wood. Special price \$3.98



Weathered Oak Magazine Stand, exactly like cut; has old-brass trimmings; low in apartment. Only \$8.35



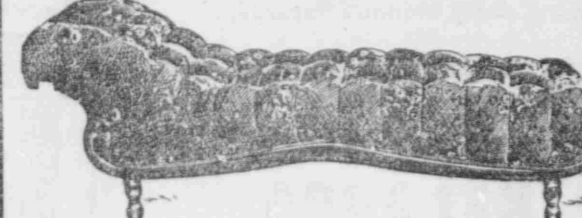
Leather Rocker, exactly like cut; best quality leather, good upholstery and oak frame. \$29.75 A special value, only....



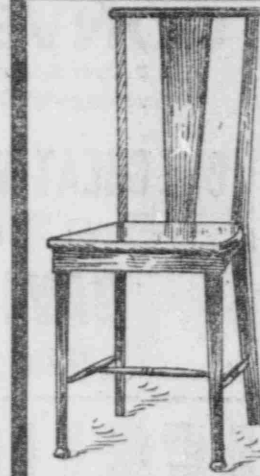
Oak Dining-room Chair, exactly like cut; has high back, brace arms, and good finish. A special value for \$1.20



Oak Extension Table, exactly like cut; round top, six-foot size; is well constructed and has good finish. Only \$4.25



Handsome Couch, exactly like cut; has oak frame, velvet cover, and good upholstery. Special price \$6.55



Weathered Oak Reception or Desk Chair, exactly like cut; has old-brass trimmings; very s-b tantial. Only \$2.98



Oak Dresser, exactly like cut; has full swell front, large French bevel plate mirror and good finish. Special price \$16.95

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